



Senator  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

35th Guam Legislature

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

June 12, 2019

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

governor@guam.gov

**Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero**

Governor of Guam

Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex

Adelup, Guam

Håfa adai Governor Leon Guerrero,

I am following up on my May 24<sup>th</sup> letter regarding concerns with the proposed site for the Live Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) at Northwest Field, adjacent to Litekyan/Ritidian and the proposed site for the Main Cantonment at Finegayan. I am once again asking you to pause any projects that will destroy our historical and cultural sites. During the 2019 Annual Programmatic, it was revealed that a new inadvertent discovery of historic artifacts was uncovered during the clearing of vegetation at the proposed LFTRC site at Northwest Field. Since then, there have been several new inadvertent discoveries at both Northwest Field and Finegayan.

In the Northwest Field area adjacent to Ritidian/Litekyan, three new inadvertent discoveries of historic properties were uncovered in the Known Distance Rifle Range (KDRR), two of which were found after the May 24<sup>th</sup> PA Workshop meeting. The MCAG report noted that the 3 areas are probable sites or extensions of one larger site, pending confirmation by additional investigations. The properties found contained fire features (potential earth ovens), Latte Period ceramic scatters, various lithics, and shell artifacts, all of which were densely situated encompassing a large portion of the proposed Known Distance Rifle Range. The report also noted that "stump pulling activities continue to expose archaeological materials as they move north."

In the Finegayan area near the known site 66-08-2303, commonly referred to as Magua, three inadvertent discoveries were made during the construction of the Main Cantonment. The historic properties that were recently found contain fire features (potential earth ovens), Latte Period ceramic scatters, various lithics, and shell artifacts according to the Marine Corps Activity Guam (MCAG) Public Works Department report. In October 2018, Magua was cleared and bulldozed in contravention of discussions that the military had with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Guam Preservation Trust to preserve part of the area for an interpretive site which would have kept the historic properties in place. When we attended a May 23<sup>rd</sup> site visit to Finegayan during the 2019 Annual Programmatic Agreement Workshop, we were shown latte and lusong removed from Magua and other sites. The latte and lusong were amassed in an outdoor area roped off from the nearby construction site. We were not allowed to see Magua and were informed it had been cleared.

In a span of two weeks, there have been three new inadvertent discoveries at Northwest Field which are in addition to the 14 known historic properties that have already been removed (via "data recovery") and the eighty other historic properties which will be impacted by the proposed LFTRC site. **"Data recovery" as written in the Programmatic Agreement is the removal of only a sampling of archaeologically relevant material (i.e. latte, lusong, earth ovens, pottery pieces, etc.) and any remaining artifacts at the site are left to the discretion of the contractor to dispose.** I agree with the SHPO who has expressed her concerns that "there are just too many inadvertent discoveries to ignore their frequency -- especially when it leads directly to data recovery" and

June 12, 2019

Letter to Governor Leon Guerrero

Page 2

"eventually to the "wipeout" of ancestral sites" instead of the preservation of our historic artifacts in its existing landscape.

This is another example of how the 2011 Programmatic Agreement is not sufficient in safeguarding Guam from severe impacts on historic sites and environmental resources. I had asked during this year's Annual PA Workshop that newly discovered historic sites be opened to the public to visit, especially before they are cleared. Chamorros have a right to protection of these cultural and historical sites and our future generations may have the technology to further interpret the interaction of cultural practices and the environment that helped our ancestors survive 4000 years. Those future generations are relying on what our community does in the next few days. I am respectfully requesting your immediate assistance in ensuring our historic properties are preserved in place, particular those in the construction area adjacent to Ritidian. **I ask that a pause be placed on the LFTRC project to give more time for the SHPO and community to consider the importance of the new discoveries and for you to lead discussions with the military as to whether they can avoid the additional historic properties discovered.** Time is of the essence as clearing continues at Northwest Field and the clearing for the largest of the firing ranges may be funded by way of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. It is unknown how many more historic artifacts have yet to be uncovered in the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun range, the largest of the firing ranges, adjacent to where the Serianthes nelsonii is located, which is slated next to be cleared and graded.

I am attaching a summary of concerns regarding the LFTRC, MCAG reports regarding the new inadvertent discoveries at Northwest Field and Finegayan and my previous letters regarding historic properties and the surrounding environment impacted by the LFTRC and Main Cantonment projects. I am happy to meet with you regarding this matter and I am sure other members in the community who have years of experience would be willing to apprise you of their efforts towards protecting our cultural and historic sites in these areas.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,



Therese M. Terlaje

CC: Lynda Aguon, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Chief Advisor on Military and Regional Affairs  
Joe Quinata, Guam Preservation Trust  
Michael Makio, Chairman, Guam Historic Preservation Review Board  
Ann Marie Arceo, President, Department of Chamorro Affairs

Attachments:

- Summary of Concerns regarding Live Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) and maps, June 3, 2019
- Marine Corps Activity Guam Inadvertent Discovery Reports and data recovery plans, June 6, 2019
- Letter from Senator Terlaje to the Governor Leon Guerrero, May 24, 2019 with attachments
  - Letter from Vice Speaker Terlaje to the Governor Calvo, May 24, 2018 with attachments
  - Executive Summary Memorandum, Department of the Navy, April 16, 2018
  - SHPO Letter to Signatories Regarding Stipulation XIII- Resolving Objections, May 24, 2018 with attachments
    - SHPO letter to ACHP, September 26, 2017
    - ACHP response to SHPO, October 13, 2017
  - Letter from Vice Speaker Terlaje to the Governor Calvo, September 5, 2017
    - Factsheet for Letter to the Governor, September 5, 2017
- Annual Workshop Minutes for CY2016, April 27, 2017
- PA Memo for Project J-755, February 2018